

User Guide of Cargo Data Miner

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Abstract

This is the user guide of Cargo Data Miner. Cargo Data Miner is an R-Shiny Dashboard application developed by Airbus Freighter Marketing department (CSMX). The initiative is to build a platform where everybody could query and analyze cargo data. In this document, detailed information and instruction are provided in order to facilitate the usage and maintenance of the application. For more information, the author could be reached at xuzhou.qin@gmail.com.

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1 Introduction

Aviation market is a highly complex and data-dependent market. Inside Airbus, numbers of different servers are deployed to stock, manage and provide database services to support our daily work. It is striving to introduce data digitalization as a core task of its future plan. The raising importance of data has already grabbed the attention of the managers and it will never stop growing. However, face to the massive amount of data, challenge still remains.

At the company level, the main challenge comes from the database management. Too many databases are stocked seperately with different **database management system** (DBMS). The databases are quite isolated from the others. In other words, except people who frequently use one database, others could not even know its existence. Then, the different DBMS cause inconvinience in database management. For example in the freighter marketing department (CSMX), three marketing databases, *Cargo IS*, *Seabury* and *FlightRadar 24* are stocked separately in three data servers using three different DBMS (Oracle Database, MySQL and Microsoft SQL server).

At the department level, the major challenge is the lack of an efficient and user-friendly tool for the data extraction and analysis process. Even thought the traditional approach of database management, SQL, is widely used for data manipulation. But in order to use it efficiently, you must have some knowledge of programming and you have to suffer the difficulty in interfacing. As SQL is not a common tool inside marketing department, interacting with the data by using SQL may not be a suitable choice. As to the data analysis tool, Excel is one of the most widly used software. But it suffers from some innate limitations facing the increasing amount of data.

There are also some Airbus-made tools for marketing department, like *Acper*, *OAG Builder*, *route06*, etc. These are very powerful and sophisticated programs dedicated for specific usage since a very long time. They are irreplaceable for some tasks but they are still not perfect. For example, in terms of learning difficulty, they both have a steep learning curve. Some special training session are needed to master these tools. And from a graphical design's point of view, they often remind me about the "old fashioned" software interface, which may be not enough intuitive and user-friendly. The need to visualize the analytic results in a modern way is thus urgent.

Due to these facts, data digitalization inside Airbus should be done from two level. We will need an uniform and standardized plateform to stock and manage data at the company level. And inside the departments, new data mining and analysis tools are needed to support the works in the big data era. Some moves have already been realised inside Airbus. **BIO** is a platform which provide an automatic aggregation of different databases. **Foundry** is a cloud-based platform for collaboratively big data analysis built by Palantir Technologies.

This document provide a solution for the development of a data analysis tool by using **R Shiny Dashboard**. **Shiny Dashboard** is a framework to create a light weight, powerful and interactive web application. It uses a reactive programming model so that outputs change instantly as users modify inputs. It is esay to use, no web designing language required. But further customization could be easily done with some HTML, CSS and JavaScript knowledge.

In the first section of this document, installation and deployment prerequisites are presented. Then, detailed fonctionalities and the application structure are stated in section two in order to provide technical support for using and maintenance. In the third section, some suggestions for the future development of this application are proposed. The technical appendix could be found in the last section of the document.

2 Prerequisites

Cargo Data Miner (CDM) was developed with Microsoft R Open 3.2.5, which is a enhanced distribution of R. It support by defaut multi-thread computing and it is perfectly compatible with the original R. The user interface used during the development is RStudio, which the most common IDE of R.

To make **CMD** work properly, there are two main methods.

- Install and run it locally on a PC for personal use.
- Deploy it on a Shiny server so that CDM could be reached by an IP adress.

In this section, I will present both the two methods.

2.1 Directory Structure

The following figure presents the structure of the CDM directory.

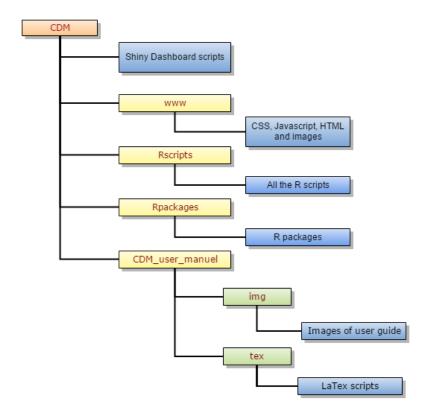


Figure 1: CDM directory structure

The main directory ~/CDM contains Shiny Dashboard scripts (ui.R, server.R and global.R) and three directories:

- /www
- /Rscripts
- /Rpackages
- /CDM_user_manuel

All the images, HTML, CSS and JavaScript used in **CDM** should be placed in ~/CDM/www. All the R scripts called by the application should be placed in ~/CDM/Rscripts and all the R packages (for local installation) should be placed in ~/CDM/Rpackages. These three directories are the essential parts of **CDM**.

In ~/CDM/CDM_user_manuel, you will find the code of this use guide (written in R markdown) and its resources. All figures appeared in this document should be placed in ~/CDM/CDM_user_manuel/img and all the LaTex scripts called from the R markdown code will be found in ~/CDM/CDM_user_manuel/tex.

2.2 Installation on a PC

CDM could run on a personal computer having installed R and a web browser with the correct configuration. Before the first use, some steps have to be followed.

- Step 1: Get R and other required software:
 - Install Microsoft R Open 3.2.5 from https://mran.revolutionanalytics.com/download/ (to turn
 on the multi-thread computing support, install the MLK package as well), or you can install the
 original R (64-bit) from https://cran.r-project.org/mirrors.html.
 - Install RStuido from https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/. This is optional but highly recommanded.
 - CDM works with Internet Explorer but you could also install Google Chrome for the best performance.
 - Install Oracle Database Instant Client (11.2.0.3) EN_W764 from PC service. Or you can
 download it from Oracle website (Make sure it is the 64-bit version). If error of Oracle occurs
 during the execution of CMD, see Appendix: Troubleshooting for help.
- Step 2: Connection Setup
 - CMD will need the access right of three different databases. They are: p595dodmp01 (Cargo IS, Seabury), fr0-bio-p01 (BIO) and fr0-dmds-p01 (FlightRadar 24). The user name and password are already pre-filled and there is no need to change, except for BIO database. Because you will need to grant the access right to your own Windows account to make the connection. To do so, you could ask Aurelien Turina for further information.
 - ~/CDM/global.R contains the connection parameters of these databases.

```
#' CONNECTION PARAMETERS
#' Modify it before the first execution of the application
#' ROracle connection string
#' for Cargo IS, Seabury
host = 'p595dodmp01'
port = 1521
sid = 'DBUPA269'
username cargois <- 'CARGO'
password_cargois <- '*******
#' RODBC MS SQL server connection string
#' for BIO
driver_bio <- 'SQL Server'</pre>
server_bio <- 'fr0-bio-p01'</pre>
port_bio <- 10335
username_bio <- ''
password bio <- ''
trusted_connection_bio <- TRUE # if TRUE connect with windows login and pw
#' RMySQL MySQL connection string
#' for FlightRadar 24
```

```
user_fr24 <- "user_ext"
password_fr24 <- "**********
dbname_fr24 <- 'FR24'
host_fr24 <- "fr0-dmds-p01"</pre>
```

- Step 3: Now you can open RStudio.
 - Before running CDM, if you have more than one version of R installed on your computer, make sure that the R version is [64-bit] ~/MRO_3.2.5 (the name could be varied)
 - Click on the **run** button on the top right of the text editor aera to execute the application. The application will automatically check if all the required R packages are installed and it will install those which are not installed from **CRAN** (Comprehensive R Archive Network). **CRAN** is a network of ftp and web servers around the world that store identical, up-to-date, versions of code and documentation for R. However, due to the internet connection configuration inside Airbus, if any of the required packages fails to download, you will have to download and install it manuelly (See Appendix for detail).

Now you are ready to use **CDM**:)

2.3 Deployment on a Shiny Server Pro

Shiny Server Pro is a server program that makes Shiny application available over the web.

At this time, Shiny Server can be run on Linux servers with explicit support for Ubuntu 12.04 or greater (64 bit) and CentOS/RHEL 5 (64 bit) or greater. Multiple Shiny applications on multiple web pages could be hosted with the same Shiny Server.

It can be downloaded from https://www.rstudio.com/products/shiny/shiny-server/.

For the detail instruction of the configuration and installation of Shiny Server Pro, see Shiny Server Professional v1.4.2 Administrator's Guide on http://docs.rstudio.com/shiny-server/.

3 Structure and Features

A Shiny dashboard application could contains three sources scripts:

- $\bullet\,$ a user-interface script: ui.R
- a server script: server.R
- a global environment script: global.R

There is another structure of Shiny application where all the three main scripts could be integrated into one single scipt app.R. But here we only talk about the "traditional" structure.

The UI script controls the layout and appearance of the app. The server script contains the instructions that your computer needs to build your app. And the glabal script defines objects in the global scope.

Reactivie programming is the fundamental of a Shiny Dashboard application. The main idea is to make it easy to wire up *input values* from a web page, trigger the R code to be (re)executed, and then have the results of your R code be written as *output values* back to the web page.

The following figure shows the three elements in Shiny reactive programming. **Reactive source** typically is the user's input through a web browser. It could trigger the execution of an R code. The output of the code is represented by the **reactive endpoint**. **Reactive conductor** could be placed between the sources

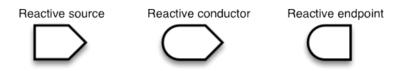


Figure 2: Essential objects in reactive programming

and endpoints. Generally they are used to encapsulate the computationally expensive operations in order to augment the code performance.

After launching **CDM**, you will see the following welcome page. **CDM** has three parts: a header, a sidebar and a body. The header show the application name and some notification¹, for example the database connection status, the app version and the developing progres. The sidebar could help you to navigate between different tabs The functionalities of these widgets will be presented in the following sections. Finally the body is the main aera where you will be able to interact with **CMD** and see the output.



Figure 3: CMD home page

Five different tabs are displayed on the sidebar. Each tab contains also several subtabs.

3.1 Cargo IS Database

Cargo IS database is the first major conponent of **CDM**. It provides airport level Air Waybill data, including airfreight charges, weight, numbers of shipmens and it is the only ressource of cargo yield information for Airbus.

3.1.1 Data loader

3.1.1.1 Instruction

¹Some features are still under development.

The first step is about how to load Cargo IS data. In the first dropdown menu, we could select the level of data granularity to be queried from Cargo IS (e.g., airport to airport, country to country, region to region, etc). Then the year and the $\mathbf{O\&D}$ (Origin and Destination) of airfreight should be precised. You can check the box "Plot evolution since 2010" to load data of all the available year (2010-2016). When the box is checked, the year input will be ignored.

After selecting the right parameters, click on **Load Data** buttom. Some summerize of the queried dataset will be shown on the top of this tab. A preview of the 50 first rows will appear on the right. You could do a quick check of the data. The data table could be downloaded by simply clicking on the **Download Data** button.

Now the data table is loaded and ready to be used!

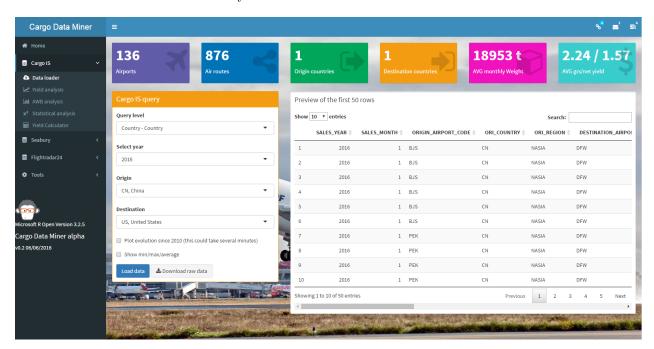


Figure 4: An example query of the 2015 airfreight from China to the USA.

3.1.1.2 Explaination

The data loading procedure will call the CargoIS.SQL.query function. The function will take the user parameters as inpus, generate an appropriate Oracle SQL code and send the query to the data server. The returned dataset is thus stocked in the global scope and it is ready to be used by other functions.

The six value boxes on the top of the page are created by the function valueBox(value, subtitle, icon, color, width, href) based on the output dataset. They represent:

- Airports: Numbers of unique airports appeared in the dataset.
- Air routes: Numbers of unique airport pairs (Origin + Destination) in the dataset.

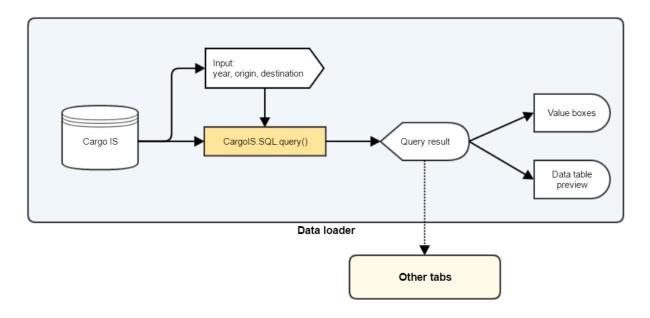


Figure 5: Flowchart of data loading process

- Origin country: Numbers of unique origin country(ies).
- **Destination country**: Numbers of unique destination country(ies).
- AVG monthly weight: Arithmetic mean of weight.

Average monthly weight =
$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} weight_{ij}}{n}$$

, where i is the number of months, j is the weight break.

• AVG gross/net yield:

$$Average~gross~yield = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{m}charges_{ij} + surcharges_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{m}weight_{ij}}$$

$$Average \ net \ yield = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} charges_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} weight_{ij}}$$

, charges are fees directly related to the weight of the shipment and surcharges contain all the other fees (fuel surcharges, security surcharges, taxes, etc.)

3.1.2 Top airports/air routes

When the data loading procedure is complete, you can go to the following tabs to see some visualization output. After clicking on the "Yield Analysis" tab, CDM will automatically proceed and visualize the loaded dataset.

3.1.2.1 Instruction

The first part of tab contains visualization of the top n airports and air routes. Figure 6 shows in the map the top 20 origin and destination airports. The surface of the circle represents the weight of shipment going through this airport. The darkness of the color represents the yield of the airport. The charts are

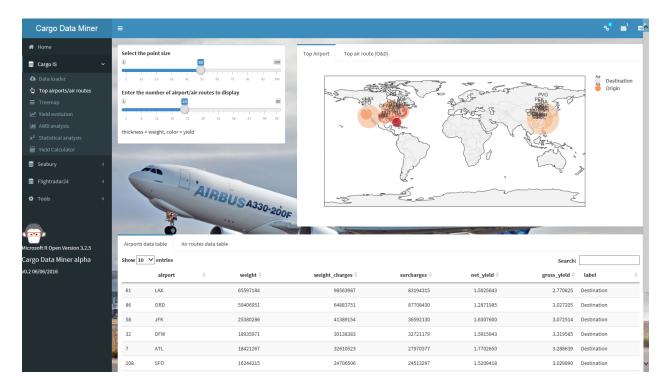


Figure 6: Yield Analysis tab, top 20 airports of CN-US

interactive, you can zoom in/out with the mouse scroll wheel. You can also click on the legend to display/hide the origin/destination airports.

The value of n could be modified by dragging the slider bar. You could also modify the size of the circle if sometimes the defaut size is too big/small.

The **Top air routes** (**O&D**) tab of the visualization chart shows the weight and yield of the most important air routes. Origin and destination airports are linked by blue curves with different thickness and darkness. The **thicker** the curve, the **more** the total weight and the **darker** the blue, the **higher** the yield.

The last two tabs (Airports data table and Air routes data table) show the two data tables that **CDM** uses to create the map. It could be sorted by variables and it could be directly copy-pasted into an Excel sheet.

3.1.2.2 Explaination

An R package Plot_ly was used to create the visualization map. From /Scripts/Plot.airport.html.R, an user defined function Plot.airport.html() is called.

```
#' [Plot.airport.html] could be used to visualize the top n airports/air routes
#' When the parameter table = TRUE, it will output the datatable that it will
#' use for the data visualization.
#'

#' @param dataset: data frame with five columns
#' c('ORIGIN_AIRPORT_CODE', 'DESTINATION_AIRPORT_CODE', 'WEIGHT_CURRENT_YEAR',
#' 'WEIGHT_CHARGES_CURR_YEAR_USD', 'OTHER_CHARGES_CURR_YEAR_USD')
#'
#' @param projection: Mercator or orthographic
#'
#' @param top: numbers of airport/air routes to be displayed
#'
```

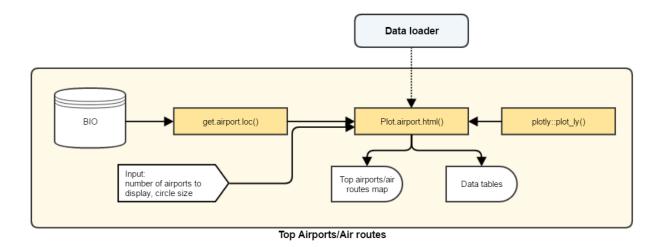


Figure 7: Flowchart of top airports/air routes tab

Plot.airport.html() will call plotly::plot_ly(). plotly::plot_ly() provides a simple way to add scatters/lines/curves to a map. It will only need the coordinates of the O&D airports, which we could easily get from BIO database by doing

```
source('/Scripts/get.airport.loc.R')
get.airport.loc()
```

Figure 7 shows how the function plot.airport.html() works.

3.1.3 Treemap

3.1.3.1 Instruction

The tab **Treemap** visualizes the relationship between different **nodes** (airports, countries and regions). Each node is displayed as a rectangle, sized by the total airfreight weight of this node and colored by the average gross yield of the node.

You can click on the rectangle to see its child nodes² (if exist), and right-click to see its parent node. A scale is shown on the top right to indicate the yield level. The tab **Table** will render the used data table for the visualization. The table contains four columns, *Name*, *Parent*, *Weight*, *GrossYield*.

Currently there is no fitable solution to generate a static downloadable image. So you may take a screen shot if you want to add the chart to your slides.

²For example, **country** is the child node of **region**, and it is the parent node of **airport**.

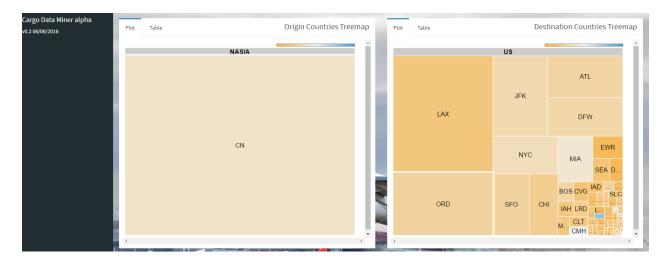


Figure 8: Treemap of airports for CN and US

3.1.3.2 Explaination

To create an interactive treemap, I created an user-defined function treemap_cargois_gvis(), which will call googleVis::gvisTreeMap(). The package googleVis is the R interface to Google Charts API. It generates an HTML code which could be integrated into R Shiny application. It could be further customized by using Javascripts.

```
# Example:
treemap_cargois_gvis(data, ORG = FALSE, PLOT = TRUE)

#' data is a data.frame object generated by Cargois.SQL.query()
#' If ORG = TRUE, then create treemap for the origin airports,
#' else for the the destination airports
#' If PLOT = FALSE, then the output will be a data.frame object
#' (instead of a plot)
```

The function treemap_cargois_gvis() will convert the queried Cargo IS data table into a four-column dataset (Name, Parent, Weight, Gross Yield), which could be used by googleVis::gvisTreeMap().

3.1.4 Yield Evolution

Yield is the most important information provided by Cargo IS database.

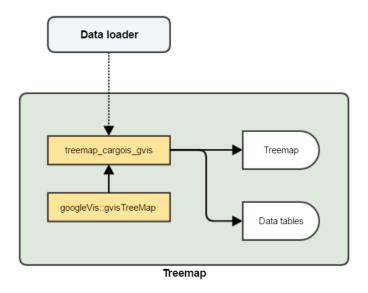


Figure 9: Flowchart of Treemap tab

3.1.4.1 Instruction

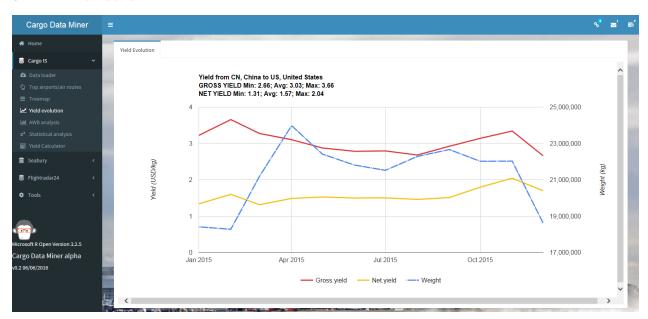


Figure 10: Airfreight weight and yield evolution for CN and US

The next tab **Yield evolution** generates an airfreight evolution plot. **CDM** calculates and render a line chart showing the evolution of gross yield, net yield and airfreight weight during the selected period of time. The minimum, maximum and average value of the output are shown in the plot's subtitle.

The x-axis represents the available months during the selected period. If the box "Plot evolution since 2010" in the data loaded page is checked, all the available data will be visualized (but the computing will also take a longer time).

You could click on the curve to see detailed information of the choosen data point.

A data table appears on the bottom of the page. It contains all the data of the line chart. You could click on

the download button to save it to the local.

3.1.4.2 Explaination

I would like to integrate the three curves (net yield, gross yield and weight) into one sigle chart. Thus two different y-axis are needed. The well known package ggplot2 does not support two different y-axis in one chart so I will still use googleVis to generate the line chart.

3.1.5 Air Waybill Analysis

An **air waybill** is a receipt issued by an international airline for goods and an evidence of the contract of carriage. It is the most important document issued by the carrier (directly of throught an authorised agent). Cargo IS contains the records the weight data and it regroups the air waybills into six categories, which are called **weight breaks**, regarding to its weight.

They are:

- 0 to 50 kg
- 50 to 100 kg
- 100 to 300 kg
- 300 to 500 kg
- 500 to 1000 kg
- larger than 1000 kg

The proportion of the AWB of different categories in a market could be an indicator of the economic situation. For example, an increasing number of heavy shipments often means the cargo consolidation becomes more efficient, and the economic situation is going better.

3.1.5.1 Instruction

The first row of this tab contains seven figures:

- Shipment frequency evolution is a line chart which shows how the numbers of shipments change during the selected period. By defaut, there will be six curves representing repectively the different weight break.
- Shipment weight distribution is a bar chart which shows the distribution of the AWB of different weight break in the selected period.
- Weight vs. distance is a stacked bar chart showing the sum of shipment weight by different intervals of distance. The colors represent the different weight breaks.
- Frequency vs. distance: like the previous figure, it shows the numbers of shipments by different intervals of distance.

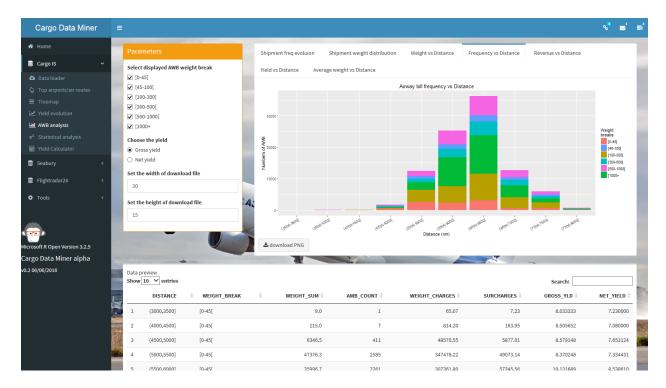


Figure 11: Air waybill analysis

- Revenu vs. distance shows the revenus (charges) of airfreight by different intervals of distance.
- Yield vs. distance is a line chart showing the gross/net yield of by weight breaks and by diatance.
- Average weight vs. distance takes into account all the weight breaks and compute the weighted arithmetic mean of weight by distance.

For the charts 3, 4,5 and 6, if there is only one interval of distance, a pie chart will be created instead of a bar chart. All the charts can be downloaded by clicking "download PNG" button.

On the left of the charts, some parameters can be changed to modify the charts. You can display/hide one or multiple weight break(s) by checking/unchecking the boxes. The second part "gross yield/net yield" corresponds to the yield type in the chart *Yield vs. distance*. The last two text input aera control the width and height of the downloaded image.

On the bottom of the page, the data table used for creating the charts is displayed. It could also be downloaded by clicking the download button.

3.1.5.2 Explaination

Before creating the charts, data manipulation should be done in order to have the right data to plot.

TO create these charts, the package ggplot2 is extensively used.

3.1.6 Yield Calculator

The last subtab of Cargo IS is a marketing tool called yield calculator, which offers an automatic computing for air route cargo yield. It will read air routes from a csv file, query Cargo IS database and display a data table with weight and yield information, as weel as a air route map visualizing all the air routes by their cargo weight and cargo yield.

3.1.6.1 Instruction

The idea of yield calculator is to get rid of manual cargo yield computing. To use yield calculator, you will need to create a csv file containing two columns: "From" and "To", which correspond to the origin and destination airport. Once the csv is ready, you could upload it to CDM by clicking choose file button. Then, the year parameter should be selected. The others parameters could be modified if according to the format of your csv file. When everything is done, click on *Start*.

A data table will be displayed after the computing. The gross yield, net yield, weight, gross charges and net charges will be calculated for each air route. On the bottom, an air routes map will show the input air routes by the cargo weight and cargo yield. The darker the curve, the higher the yield. The thicker the curve, the higher the cargo weight. Click on "Download" to download the data table. It will be a csv file as well.

On the left, you can choose the map projection, the comparing criteria and some graphical parameters to customize the map.

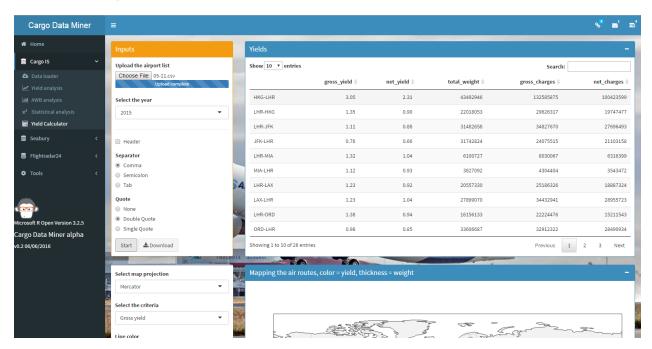


Figure 12: Yield calculator interface

3.1.6.2 Explaination

Figure 13 show the process to

3.2 Seabury Database

3.3 FlightRadar 24 Database

3.4 Other features

3.4.1 Connection status check

The first link icon on the top right shows the connection status of **CDM** to the databases. If all the databases are seccesfully connected, the color around the number will be blue. Otherwise the backgroud color will turn red.

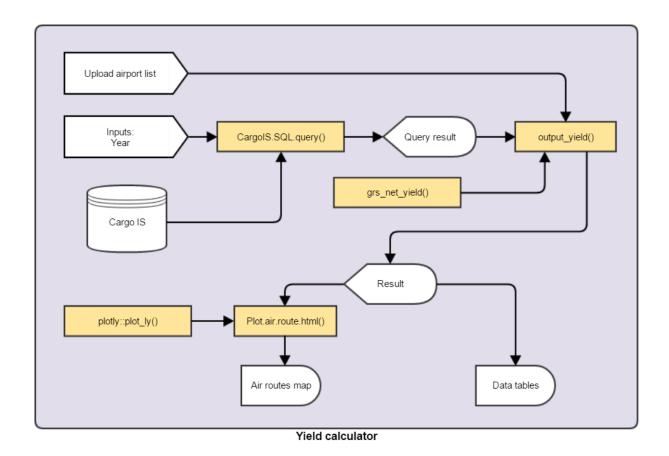


Figure 13: Flowchart of yield calculator

You can click on the icon to see the detailed connection information.

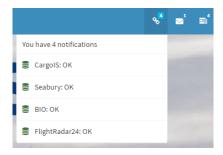


Figure 14: All the connections are succeed

3.4.1.1 Explaination

Each time when a new session of **CDM** starts, it will try to make a connection to these databases and check the class of the connector. If the class of all the connectors are not 'try-error', the value OK will be given to the variables statu_cargois, statu_bio and statu_fr24.

3.4.2 Fast selectize input

4 Future Development

5 Appendix: Troubleshooting

5.1 Install Oracle Database instance client

Oracle Database Instant Client (11.2.0.3) EN_W764 could be found in PC Service, or it could be downloaded from http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/topics/winx64soft-089540.html (you may need to create an account to be able to download it). After downloading the client, extract it to a folder that you could find again.

If **CDM** could not be executed due to errors of Oracle instant client, you can check if the environment variables of Windows is set correctly by doing the following procedure.

- Open the properties window of the computer.
- Click on "Advanced system settings"
- Select the tab "Advanced" of the appearing dialog box.
- Click "Environment Variables" button on the bottom.
- Find the variable "Path", make sure that the path of your Oracle instance client is added. If not, add it.

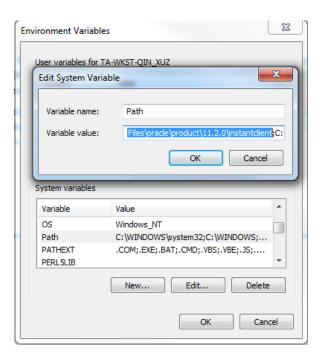


Figure 15: Check the "Path" system variable

If the problem still exists, check the **ROracle** package installation instruction on http://cran.us.r-project.org/web/packages/ROracle/INSTALL

5.2 Download and install an R package manually

Some of the R package could not be installed directly from \mathbf{CRAN} , for example the package $\mathtt{ROracle}$. In this situation, the manuel installation will be needed.

Here I will show the installation process for ${\tt ROracle}.$

- Firstly, download ROracle_1.2-1.zip from oracle.com (http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/database-technologies/r/roracle/downloads/index.html)
- Secondly, place the .zip file into ~/CDM/Rpackages and make sure that *Oracle Instant Client* is correctly installed.
- Then, instead of running

```
install.packages('ROracle')
```

run

```
install.packages('Rpackages/ROracle_1.2-1.zip', repos = NULL, type="source")
```

After the installation, the package could be called by

library(ROracle)